

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 4, 1987

TO: J. Janssen - M. Nienkirk

FROM: R. L. Johnson - On Scene Representative - Collinsville Region

SUBJECT: 1198020003 - Madison Co. - Collinsville/Central States Battery  
\*1630200005 - St. Clair Co. - Sauget/Dead Creek  
1631050001 - St. Clair Co. - New Athens/Autocrat

\*At about 1600 hrs., March 3, 1987 a USEPA "task force" arrived at the IEPA Collinsville Regional office. The group included Nick Longo, USEPA Region 5; Curt Michols and Jeff Macela, Weston, Inc., contractor to the USEPA. Their purpose was to inspect several nearby clean-up sites and propose immediate actions to be done by the USEPA if needed. Restricting public access onto the sites was a primary consideration.

On March 3 we toured the Central States Battery site. The existing PCB contamination was described to the group. Despite being informed that final remedial action should be completed within the next two months, the group proposed immediate action centered on either the construction of a chain-link fence or hiring a full-time watchman to restrict public access onto the site.

\*The following morning we met in the E&E field office at the Dead Creek site. Mr. Dan Sewell of E&E briefly described the study currently underway, concentrating on Site "G". Donning "booties" the group inspected Site "G" as Mr. Sewell pointed out particularly hazardous "hot spots" which have been identified thus far in the study. At the direction of Mr. Longo, the Weston personnel collected two surface samples. Level C personal protection with full-faced respirators were utilized by the samplers. After sealing the samples, the site perimeter was stepped off so that the length of fencing needed to secure the site could be estimated. Weston uses a \$10 per linear foot of chain-link fence installed as a cost approximation. Mr. Longo speculated that property owners of the Site would resist the installation of a fence to a degree that the fence probably would not be installed in the near future. The group was on the Dead Creek site from 0700 hours to about 0900 hours.

The group arrived at the Autocrat site in New Athens at about 0945 hours. Sample test results confirming low flash substances in on-site drums were verbally conveyed to the group, as were the vapors encountered during the sampling event. Although no specific personal protection was worn, an HNU and a LEL-O<sub>2</sub> were utilized to monitor ambient air. Neither instrument registered positive measurements during the course of the inspection.

Prior to entering the so-called Paint Building, the crawl space beneath the Building was pointed out. At the dock area Mr. Michols tentatively identified "cadmium balls" in a tub which may have been used in a plating-type operation. Moving into the storage room an unidentified odor (not distinctly solvent-like) not experienced to two previous inspections was obvious but moderate in intensity. The room was disarranged from previous visits in that

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at least one small drum had been tipped over and a large floor area was covered with a dark viscous liquid. The drums which were sampled were pointed out and a quick estimate of the quantity of drums and pails was made before the group left the Paint Building.

The group viewed the "sump" behind the Paint Building, the discarded capacitors in the shed, the asbestos jacket on the boiler, and the single capacitor just off the boiler room. The group then inspected the foundry area and composite-sampled the foundry sand to be tested for heavy metal. (The sand had not been sampled previously by an Agency). The quantity of foundry sand was estimated as about 50 cubic yards. The group saw the two transformers and thirty remaining capacitors nearby.

Discussion of immediate actions was mostly about staging non-empty drums site-wide into the Paint Building. Sealing the windows with fencing or the alike rather than panelling was suggested to allow adequate ventilation in the brick building. As for the remaining capacitors on-site the USEPA has knowledge of a Missouri facility which properly processes electrical components containing PCB oils. Should the foundry sand test positive with hazardous-level concentrations of heavy metals, the foundry would be proposed to be sealed from public access. The USEPA group proceeded to the Ilada/East Cape Girardeau site by about 1130 hours.

During the Autocrat inspection three men in business suits were seen looking over the far east end of the Autocrat buildings.

During inspection of the Paint Building exterior, two sumps in line with the above-mentioned "sump" were discovered just west of the Building. These sumps are interconnected, and any flow between the sumps might be south to the water treatment plant.

During the inspection, a 5-gallon pail identified as Asbestos Roofing Tar was discovered at the far east end of the foundry building.

RLJ:cas/0086L

cc: M. Dinkel  
cc: J. Larson ✓  
cc: D. Newman  
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